technology for steel making and enhance the quality of Indian Steel.

Appraisal of CIS Export Prices

3051. SHRI NILOTPAL BASU:
SHRI DIPANKAR MUKHERJEE:

Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) London Metal Bulletin's bi-weekly appraisal FOB export prices of HR Coil for the month of October, November and December '98;

(b) whether the above includes MB's appraisal of CIS export prices; and

(c) if not, the reason therefor and MB's appraisal CIS export prices during the same period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI RAMESH BAIS): (a) and (b) Government does not appriase the London Metal Bulletin's export prices. However, FOB prices of export of HR Coils from different countries as published in the London Metal Bulletin (bi-weekly) for the month of Oct. to Dec., 1998 were as under:

$/tonne(Average)

	European Mills	CIS countries
October '98	228	187
November '98	210	166
December '98	205	154

(c) Does not arrise in view of (a) above.

Import of Seconds and Defective Steel

3052. SHRI DIPANKAR MUKHERJEE:
SHRI NILOTPAL BASU:

Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Steel Ministry had requested the Commerce Ministry to take steps to remove import of seconds and defective below a certain floor price from OGL;

(b) if so, when was the request made;

(c) whether subsequently it was decided to fix the floor price for seconds and defective along with prime steel; and

(d) if so, the reasons for including prime steel?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI RAMESH BAIS): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The recommendations for removal of seconds and defective steel items, below a floor price from OGL were made on 12th Nov. '98.

(c) and (d) The Working Group set up by the Finance Minister had inter alia also recommended fixed customs duty on certain steel items. However, during discussions on the subject with Ministry of Finance, the Department of Steel was advised to approach Ministry of Commerce for fixing floor prices for prime products also. Therefore, recommendations to this effect were also sent to the Ministry of Commerce.

Imported machinery under EPCG Scheme

3053. SHRI DIPANKAR MUKHERJEE:
SHRI NILOTPAL BASU:

Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the new generation private steel companies which have imported machinery under EPCG Scheme;

(b) the value of the import concessions obtained by the aforesaid companies under the above scheme;

(c) total value of the exports executed by these units so far; and

(d) shortfall, if any, and the time-frame by which the same is to be made up?